(h) and (i) Delegations from Mauritius at different levels visit India at regular intervals to promote bilateral cooperation in various areas. This is an ongoing process. There is no information about any proposal of a high level delegation from Mauritius to visit India in the near future.

Lobby to safeguard Indian interest in America

3143. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India sacked Akin Gump Strauss Haur and Feld of USA for failing to lobby effectively against the sale of F-16s to Pakistan by USA;

(b) if so, whether India has appointed any other lobby firm to safeguard its interest in USA; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The contract of the lobbying firm M/sAkin Gump, Strauss, Hauer and Feld LLP expired on 30 September, 2004 and was not renewed.

(b) and (c) The appointment of another lobbying firm to advance India's interests in the US Congress would follow a detailed analysis of past results and an assessment of future objectives.

Economic Diplomacy with Pakistan

3144. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given emphasis to economic diplomacy and co-operation with Pakistan;

(b) the details of business propositions which have been discussed with Pakistan;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Indian High Commission has been asked to do the follow up on all such diplomacy;

(d) whether a special officer would be appointed in our High Commission in Pakistan to supervise all on-going problems and matters with Pakistan; and

(e) the details thereof?